

**Wednesday, June 04, 2008**

**[From the Coeur d'Alene Press](#)**

- No new education news stories posted online.

**[From the Spokesman-Review](#)**

- No new education news stories posted online.

**[From the Moscow Pullman Daily News \(password required\)](#)**

- OUR VIEW: UI is the right school to teach mine safety (Editorial)

**[From the Lewiston Tribune \(password required\)](#)**

- No new education news stories posted online.

**[From the Idaho-Press Tribune, Nampa](#)**

- Two Idaho school districts get emergency response grants

**[From the Idaho Statesman](#)**

- No new education news stories posted online.

**[From the Twin Falls Times-News](#)**

- Wendell Middle School adopts dress code
- Filer grads prepare for change

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- Post-lunch practicing
- Home-schooled students reach milestone

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- District 91 seeks to improve

FROM THE COEUR D'ALENE PRESS

**No new education news stories posted online.**

FROM THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

**No new education news stories posted online.**

FROM THE MOSCOW PULLMAN DAILY NEWS (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

**OUR VIEW: UI is the right school to teach mine safety (Editorial)**

By Murf Raquet, for the editorial board

Posted on: Tuesday, June 03, 2008

Mining is here to stay. To argue otherwise is futile.

Much of what we consume depends directly or indirectly on the mining industry.

So it stands to reason the University of Idaho has rekindled its interest in mining.

Specifically, the UI is seeking federal money to bring back its mining education program - a program that never should have been shut down.

Mining and the state have been linked since the 1860 gold rush in the Idaho Territory. The state's flag even depicts a miner, complete with pick and shovel.

The UI, the state's land grant university, started its school of mines in 1917. The school, later a college, served the mining industry from the state to the international levels.

In 2002, then-President Bob Hoover closed the College of Mines and Earth Resources as a cost-cutting move. What little was left of the mining program went to the College of Engineering.

Not all decisions made during economic hard times prove to be wise ones. One only has to look at the closure of the College of Arts and Architecture and its reopening to see the folly of rash decisions.

UI officials, particularly Aicha Elshabini, dean of the College of Engineering, hope to locate a Mining Safety and Accident Prevention Center in Wallace, Idaho, in the heart of mining in north Idaho.

Mine safety is paramount as long as men and women work underground.

"The mineral industry has been a potentially hazardous work place, even though some industry wide safety training is available," Elshabini said. "The inability to access educational material has contributed to higher fatality and injury rates for Western mining operations."

We have seen too many tragedies in numerous mining accidents in the past few years. Many of those deaths may have been avoided by taking extra safety precautions - the kind students would learn at the UI center.

Addressing safety concerns in a pre-emptive manner is preferable than figuring out what went wrong after a preventable accident.

The UI had a long tradition of educating the mining industry. It's time to bring back that tradition.

FROM THE LEWISTON TRIBUNE (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

**No new education news stories posted online.**

FROM THE IDAHO-PRESS TRIBUNE, NAMPA

**Two Idaho school districts get emergency response grants**

BOISE, Idaho (AP) -- The U.S. Department of Education has awarded two Idaho school districts with grants to improve their readiness and emergency response plans.

The Kamiah Joint School District has been awarded nearly \$200,000 and the Madison School District has been awarded nearly \$100,000. They were two of the 92 districts across 34 states to be granted more than \$24 million under the Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools program.

U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings announced the grants Wednesday, saying the money will help ensure the safety of children by allowing the districts to strengthen their crisis planning.

FROM THE IDAHO STATESMAN

**No new education news stories posted online.**

## FROM THE TWIN FALLS TIMES-NEWS

### **Wendell Middle School adopts dress code**

By Blair Koch

Correspondent

WENDELL - Information on a new dress code will accompany the report cards Wendell High School parents expect to receive in the mail early next week.

The policy, which district trustees unanimously voted in favor of during a May 20 board meeting, will be implemented next fall and is more of a strict standard code of dress than a uniform code, said WMS Principal Luke Kelsey.

"A uniform, to me, is a blue polo-top and khaki pants, and that is not what we have," Kelsey said. "The tops will be polo-style but we are allowing five colors (yellow, green, pink, white and gray) for them and students have the choice of wearing khaki, blue and black bottoms."

Kelsey added that bottoms will not be restricted to merely full-length slacks, as students are free to wear capri-style pants, shorts and skirts which meet color requirements. School-sponsored logo apparel will also be permitted.

"I think if the kids dress the part of being good kids, their behavior will follow suit," Kelsey said.

Kelsey said Jerome's Wal-Mart and D&B Supply stores, as well as the Old Navy store in Twin Falls have been contacted by the school and have pledged to stock up on clothing meeting the code. The school has also contracted with a Boise Nelson School Supply to bring discounted items to school registration in August.

Kelsey hopes the stricter dress code minimizes issues pertaining to modesty and gang affiliation.

A uniform policy at the middle school has been a hot topic in the district over the past few months. During a special meeting held April 23, trustees rescinded a previous vote to move forward with the policy after several parents voiced opposition.

While Board President Gay Petersen wouldn't comment on why the board again voted in favor of the policy she said her zone constituents are in support of the new dress code.

Some parents still aren't so sure of the change.

Wendell resident Stormy Eldredge will have two students attending the middle school next year. Possible cost issues aside, she said the policy should be implemented district-wide.

"If they are going to have a uniform policy at the middle school, they should have it at the high school, too," she said.

No uniform policy is planned for Wendell High, though officials are drafting a tighter dress code for district employees.

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## **Filer grads prepare for change**

By John E. Swayze

Correspondent

FILER - Caps were tossed into the air with exuberant relief Monday at the Filer High School class of 2008 graduation ceremony.

Surrounded by family and friends in the College of Southern Idaho gymnasium, 99 graduates reached an academic milestone they worked toward for more than a decade.

Scholastic excellence during the school's 76th year produced five valedictorians, two salutatorians and a pair of National Scholar finalists eligible for part of \$40 million in college and corporate scholarships.

"Tearsa Williams and David Albertson are not only outstanding students, but they were chosen from among 16,000 semifinalists for this honor." Principal Leon Madsen announced. "This is the first time in my time as principle of Filer High School that we've had two young people qualify in a single year."

Williams and Albertson were presented with Merit Scholar plaques in recognition of their achievement.

Class valedictorians addressed their fellow graduates with messages centered on preparing for changes in life.

"I've never been a big fan of change and I'm kind of panicking, but not all change is bad." Haley Ramseyer said. "I know some of us will change our perspective, some will get married and change their name and some might even change the world, and it's OK because the light just turned green."

Keynote speaker Sue Billington-Wade, a nationally known educator, author and creator of the Walkin' the Talk program, referred to lessons learned from senior graduation projects as examples to encourage future determination and compassion.

"You chose projects that cared for others that you may never really know and served the greater good," she said. "Because you kept going, you are stronger, kinder and more ready for the future than you have ever been."

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## FROM THE IDAHO STATE JOURNAL (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

### **Post-lunch practicing**

Tyler Ray hopes playing basketball after lunch will help him make the team

BY CASEY SANTEE

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POCATELLO — For Tyler Ray, eating lunch at Alameda Park is a lot more than a meal.

It's also a chance to get together with his neighborhood friends for a pick-up game of basketball.

Tyler, 13, walks the short distance from his home a couple of times per week to take advantage of School District 25's summer feeding program, which runs Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

After finishing the free lunches, a games of basketball is dessert for Tyler and his friends.

Tyler, a Franklin Middle School eighth-grader, plans to try out for Franklin's basketball team this fall.

He said he has no favored position on the hardwood — or concrete, as is the case at Alameda Park. He just likes to play.

And for now, shooting hoops with his buddies at the park is fun practice. "It's a lot better than just sitting at home," Tyler said moments after stealing the ball from an opponent and driving to the basket for two points.

Cindy Fullmer has been serving the free lunches since the program began in 2001.

Fullmer works in Tendoy Elementary School's lunchroom during the school year.

This year, the program has expanded to include Pocatello's Raymond Park.

"It's crazy, but it's great," Fullmer said, gazing around at the hundreds of children scattered throughout the park with sandwiches and juice boxes in their hands Tuesday.

The program is available to anyone up to 19 years old.

Tyler, who also enjoys football and mountain biking the abundant trails surrounding the Gate City, said making the trek to Alameda Park on summer weekdays is a tradition he intends to keep.

He said the meal he gets at the park isn't much different than what he would eat at home.

It's the familiar faces and competitive spirit that make the difference.

### **Home-schooled students reach milestone**

I-DEA class set to graduate Saturday

BY BROOKE ANDERSON

For the Journal

POCATELLO — June is the time of year to celebrate new beginnings.

This is when graduates mark a milestone in life by walking across the stage in caps and gowns to receive their diplomas to the sound of celebratory applause.

For those who have been home-schooled, the experience can be more intimate.

"It's an opportunity for the students to thank their parents," says Michelle Funderburg, a home schooling parent of three children and community coordinator for the Idaho Distance Education Academy. "It's more of a celebration for the family."

According to a statement from the school, I-DEA is a K-12 statewide public charter school that offers researchbased curriculum and professional guidance to home educators. It is aimed at parents who prefer their children be educated in a home setting, but want the guidance of a certified teacher, curricular choice and online resources. I-DEA serves approximately 900 students throughout Idaho.

The school will hold a graduation ceremony for its seven Southeast Idaho students on Saturday in Chubbuck.

Amanda Hays, who began home schooling programs when she was in middle school in California, has just completed her senior year of high school with I-DEA. She believes the lack of pomp and circumstance is just fine. For her, being able to learn at her own speed has been worth the trade-off for the traditional school setting.

“In middle school, I got really bored. I felt like I wasn’t learning anything. I was miserable,” recalls the 17-yearold Fort Hall resident. “Kids picked on me because my dad is deaf.”

During the sixth grade time, she says, “Public school stifled me. I cried every morning for a year, and my parents said, ‘That’s enough.’ I started home schooling midway through the seventh grade.”

Hays acknowledges, “The first year was rocky.”

But once she got in the habit of learning from home, she liked the freedom to study at an accelerated pace.

When she heard about IDEA at the beginning of high school, she was immediately interested because, for her, the program appeared to give her the best of both worlds.

As she puts it, “The learning process (of studying at home) was the same for me. And I wanted a formal graduation and a diploma.”

Now, the new graduate, an aspiring opera singer who has won \$50,500 in scholarships, in the fall plans on attending the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y. — one place where she will get the traditional graduation experience when she completes her degree.

Even with the success stories of I-DEA students such as Hays, Funderburg, community coordinator for the school, notes that at-home schooling is not for everyone.

She says, “If I worked outside of home for long periods, I wouldn’t do it. I’m a teacher, and I need time to teach. For the kids, it’s important that they want it.”

And Hays was one student who definitely wanted home schooling, and appears to have thrived because of it.

To sum up her experience being home-schooled, she says, “I’ve had people who’ve guided me, helped me grow as a person and deal with adult situations. I’ve been able to learn things I love. It’s mental freedom.”

Recently, she got to attend a friend’s graduation where there was an orchestra and students threw their hats up in the air.

As for her own graduation, she says, “I get my diploma, and I see people I know in the audience — it’s more intimate. It is a milestone, but it doesn’t stop at graduation.”

## FROM THE IDAHO FALLS POST REGISTER (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

### **District 91 seeks to improve**

Officials say Idaho Falls schools need quite a bit of work

By KIM NOTEBOOM knoteboom@postregister.com

Robert Bower / rbower@postregister.com - Dennis Griffeth, principal of Ethel Boyes Elementary School, has been coping with a growing problem -- not enough classroom and indoor activity space for students. District 91 is in the planning stage of expanding the school and upgrading the heating and cooling systems. Other district schools are also being evaluated.

Ravsten Stadium's concrete is deteriorating.

Dora Erickson Elementary School's 53-year-old boiler is close to giving out.

Some classrooms at Ethel Boyes Elementary School lack doors.

Longfellow and Edgemont Gardens elementary schools need better parking, zones for drop-off and pick-up, and more classrooms.

The list of improvements needed at Idaho Falls School District 91's aging schools is getting so long, officials are considering abandoning their timetable of updating a school every two years and doing all the upgrades at once.

They are paying Trane Inc. \$1.4 million to examine the district's schools and identify how to make them more energy efficient and better learning environments for students, whether that is more classrooms or better wiring for technology.

The company will then prepare a report listing what improvements need to be made and how much they'll cost. A final report will likely be released in January.

The project potentially will "touch every building in the district in one way or another," Superintendent George Boland said.

Dora Erickson Elementary School is the

No. 1 priority.

The 53-year-old school was built around its original boiler, which it still uses, making it almost impossible to replace. The study will examine whether it would be more cost effective to remodel the school or build a new one.

Another priority is Ravsten Stadium, located behind Idaho Falls High School. Its concrete is crumbling and moisture is leaking into the classrooms underneath it.

The renovation lists at Longfellow and Edgemont elementary schools also are long.

They need better parking, parent drop-off and bus zones, improved office space and teacher workroom areas, upgraded heating and air systems, and classroom additions to reduce the use of trailers.



Theresa Bunker and Ethel Boyes elementaries also need to be modernized.

The example district officials are using as the target is Hawthorne Elementary, which has undergone an extensive remodel over the past few years.

Gone are the heating problems and cracked windows.

Now, Hawthorne's classrooms have energy-efficient lighting, a sink, computer areas and places for students to hang their coats.

There are flat-screen TVs in every classroom, additional storage, a multipurpose room, and the gymnasium is being overhauled.

"We are an old building with a brand new inside," said Anne Seifert, Hawthorne's principal.

The report is expected to be extensive.

Most of the schools in the district are at least 40 years old. Its newest school is Sunnyside Elementary, which was built in the early 1990s.

"You have systems that are 50 years old. Systems that have been run to failure," said Jim Knutson, Trane's director of comprehensive solutions. "At some point, you've got to do something to make them environmentally conducive to learning."

District officials say once they have the results -- preliminary information is expected to be released next month -- they will look at how to pay for the work. One option may be to ask voters to approve a bond.

"If we can remodel a classroom at a fraction of the cost of a new classroom, then it just makes sense to do that," Boland said.

What's needed

Improvements that District 91 is looking to implement in its schools:

air conditioning

upgraded HVAC, ventilation, electrical and plumbing

improved parking, parent drop-off and bus zones

multipurpose room addition

classroom additions to reduce the use of modular trailers

modernization  
classroom doors